

***MINUTES***  
***WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE***  
***MAY 10, 2016***  
***JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL***  
***WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE***  
***6:00 P.M.***

***This meeting was called to order by Stephen H. Lawton, Chairperson.***

**Members Present:**

Stephen Lawton, Chairperson  
Christopher Messier, Vice-Chairperson  
Rene Coutu, Clerk  
Patricia Keenan  
Luis Colon

**School Committee**

Aubrey Lombardo

**Attorney Present:**

**Administrators Present:**

Karen Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools  
Leah Bessette, Principal, Wakefield Hills Elementary  
School  
Jeffrey Guiot, Principal, John F. Deering Middle  
School  
Gregory Kortick, Athletic Director  
Nicole L'Etoile, Assistant Principal, West Warwick  
High School  
Melissa LeBlanc, Director of Human Resources  
James Monti, Director of Educational Reform,  
Compliance and Technology  
Jessica Perry, Director of Special Education Services  
Keith Remillard, Director of Federal Programming  
and Innovative Practice  
Joseph Renzi, Principal, Maisie E. Quinn  
School/Assistant Special Education Director  
Philip Solomon, Principal, West Warwick High  
School  
Joseph Spagna, Director of Financial Operations  
Kenneth Townsend, Director of Property Services

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## **1. Open Session**

### **Open Session**

Mr. Lawton opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

## **2. Roll Call**

### **Roll Call**

The following members were present: Mr. Lawton, Mr. Messier, Mr. Coutu, Mrs. Keenan, and Mr. Colon.

## **3. Motion to go into Executive Session**

### **Motion to go into Executive Session according to RI General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (a),**

**Discussion: Proposed New Legislation: School Empowerment Act, School Choice Act, and Gun-Free Schools**

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ACCORDING TO RI GENERAL LAWS 42-46-4 AND 42-46-5, SUBSECTION (A),**

**DISCUSSION: PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION: SCHOOL EMPOWERMENT ACT, SCHOOL CHOICE ACT, AND GUN-FREE SCHOOLS**

The following members voted in the affirmative: Luis Colon, Rene Coutu, Patricia Keenan, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

The School Committee met in Executive Session.

## **4. Motion to Close Executive Session**

### **Motion to Close Executive Session**

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Luis Colon, Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

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**5. Open Session**

**Open Session**

Mr. Lawton opened the public session at 6:30 P.M.

**6. Roll Call**

**Roll Call**

The following members were present: Mr. Lawton, Mr. Messier, Mr. Coutu, Mrs. Keenan, and Mr. Colon.

**7. Reading of Mission Statement**

**Reading of Mission Statement**

The Mission Statement of the West Warwick Public Schools was read:

*The West Warwick Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, is dedicated to providing all learners with access and opportunity to a challenging comprehensive education while developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in a safe, personalized learning environment.*

**8. Pledge of Allegiance**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The School Committee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**9. Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes**

**Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SEAL THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Luis Colon, Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

**MOTION**

**10. Student Recognition**

**Student Recognition**

The School Committee recognized the following students for their exceptionally high scores on the Rhode Island 2016 Personal Finance Challenge, part of a national test:

Teresa Amore, Logan Chapman, and Ryan Johnson

**11. Student Representative**

**Student Representative**

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**12. Audience of Citizens**

**Audience of Citizens**

Mr. Sean Doyle, President of the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance spoke about the School and Family Empowerment Act, and AFT Everyday Hero Sandy Cappelli, teacher at John F. Horgan Elementary School.

**13. Chairperson's Report**

**Chairperson's Report**

**14. Superintendent's Report**

**Superintendent's Report: End of Year School Update**

Mrs. Tarasevich provided an end of the year school update.

**15. Consent Agenda**

**Consent Agenda**

a) **Approval: Executive Session Minutes: April 12, 2016**

a) **Approval: Executive Session Minutes: April 12, 2016**

b) **Approval: Open Session Minutes: April 12, 2016**

b) **Approval: Open Session Minutes: April 12, 2016**

c) **Approval: Special Meeting Open Session Minutes: April 25, 2016**

c) **Approval: Special Meeting Open Session Minutes: April 25, 2016**

d) **Approval: Payment of Bills: \$708,109.78**

d) **Payment of Bills: \$708,109.78**

e) **Approval: Home Instruction Plans**

e) **Approval: Home Instruction Plans**

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Luis Colon, Patricia Keenan, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

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**16. Discussion/Approval:  
Bid Award**

**Discussion/Approval: Bid Award: Fire Alarm  
Devices – West Warwick High School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the bid award submitted by Graybar Electric, Inc., of 245 Niantic Avenue, Cranston, RI, for the purchase of a fire alarm device for West Warwick High School in the amount of \$15,415.00.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BID AWARD SUBMITTED BY GRAYBAR ELECTRIC, INC., OF 245 NIANTIC AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE ALARM DEVICE FOR WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,415.00.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Patricia Keenan, Luis Colon, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

**17. Discussion/Approval:  
Ice Skating in  
Physical Education  
Classes at West  
Warwick High School**

**Discussion/Approval: Ice Skating in Physical  
Education Classes at West Warwick High School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the proposal to offer ice skating at the Benny Magiera Memorial Ice Skating Rink as part of physical education classes for students at West Warwick High School.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO OFFER ICE SKATING AT THE BENNY MAGIERA MEMORIAL ICE SKATING RINK AS PART OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES FOR STUDENTS AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Luis Colon, Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

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### 18. Discussion/Approval: Resolution re: Gun- Free Schools

#### Discussion/Approval: Resolution re: Gun-Free Schools

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the Resolution on Gun Free Schools.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ON GUN FREE SCHOOLS.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Luis Colon, Christopher Messier, Rene Coutu, and Stephen Lawton. The following members voted in the negative: Patricia Keenan. Motion passed 4 to 1.

### 19. Discussion/Approval re: Out-of-State Field Trips

#### Discussion/Approval re: Out-of-State Field Trips

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the request submitted by the Kindergarten Teachers at John F. Horgan Elementary School to travel by school bus with approximately 115 students to Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT, on June 14, 2016.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO TRAVEL BY SCHOOL BUS WITH APPROXIMATELY 115 STUDENTS TO MYSTIC AQUARIUM IN MYSTIC, CT, ON JUNE 14, 2016.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Christopher Messier, Rene Coutu, Luis Colon, Patricia Keenan, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the request submitted by Richard Marchetti, Music Teacher at West Warwick High School to travel by commercial bus with

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approximately 50 students to New York City: School of Rock the Musical on Broadway, June 5, 2016.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY RICHARD MARCHETTI, MUSIC TEACHER AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL TO TRAVEL BY COMMERCIAL BUS WITH APPROXIMATELY 50 STUDENTS TO NEW YORK CITY: SCHOOL OF ROCK THE MUSICAL ON BROADWAY, JUNE 5, 2016.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Christopher Messier, Luis Colon, Patricia Keenan, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the request submitted by the Grade 3 teachers at John F. Horgan Elementary School to travel by school bus with approximately 100 students to Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT, on May 19, 2016.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY THE GRADE 3 TEACHERS AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO TRAVEL BY SCHOOL BUS WITH APPROXIMATELY 100 STUDENTS TO MYSTIC AQUARIUM IN MYSTIC, CT, ON MAY 19, 2016.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Luis Colon, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

## **20. Approval: Maternity/ Parental Leave**

### **Approval: Maternity/Parental Leave: Grade 2 Teacher – Greenbush Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the request submitted by Coreen Gingerella, Grade 2 Teacher at Greenbush Elementary School, effective for the 2016-2017 school year.

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### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY COREEN GINGERELLA, GRADE 2 TEACHER AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Luis Colon, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

### **21. Acceptance of Resignation for Retirement Purposes**

#### **Acceptance of Resignation for Retirement Purposes: Library Media Specialist – Wakefield Hills Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation for retirement purposes from Donna Stevens, Library Media Specialist at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES FROM DONNA STEVENS, LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Luis Colon, Patricia Keenan, Christopher Messier, Rene Coutu, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

### **22. Consent to Superintendent's Appointments**

#### **CONSENT TO SUPERINTENDENT'S APPOINTMENTS**

- a) YMCA B.L.A.S.T. Program Teachers –  
John F. Deering Middle School (FUNDING  
SOURCE: LOCAL)**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee provide advice and consent to the appointments of the following individuals to positions



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in the YMCA B.L.A.S.T. Program (Summer Program) at John F. Deering Middle School: Lisa LeCampion, Middle School Teacher, Diane Petrarca, Middle School Teacher, Hillary Zajdek, Special Education Teacher, and Tufan Oral, Math Teacher.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROVIDE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO POSITIONS IN THE YMCA B.L.A.S.T. PROGRAM (SUMMER PROGRAM) AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL: LISA LECAMPION, MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER, DIANE PETRARCA, MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER, HILLARY ZAJDEK, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, AND TUFAN ORAL, MATH TEACHER.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Patricia Keenan, Luis Colon, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

### **b) Special Education Extended School Year Certified Positions (FUNDING SOURCE: LOCAL)**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee provide advice and consent to the appointments of the following individuals to the certified positions listed below in the Extended School Year (ESY) Program.

Nurse: Laura Hull

Teachers: Mary Ribeiro, Olayina Folami, Kayla Markley, Giana Tavares, Sarah Bentley, Katie Larsh

Speech: Deborah Bayne

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROVIDE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF**

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**THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE  
CERTIFIED POSITIONS LISTED BELOW IN  
THE EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY)  
PROGRAM:**

**NURSE: LAURA HULL**

**TEACHERS: MARY RIBEIRO, OLAYINA  
FOLAMI, KAYLA MARKLEY, GIANA  
TAVARES, SARAH BENTLEY, KATIE LARSH**

**SPEECH: DEBORAH BAYNE**

The following members voted in the affirmative:  
Patricia Keenan, Christopher Messier, Rene Coutu,  
Luis Colon, and Stephen Lawton. Motion  
unanimously passed.

**c) Special Education Extended School Year  
Teacher Assistant Positions (FUNDING  
SOURCE: LOCAL)**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School  
Committee provide advice and consent to the  
appointments of the following individuals as teacher  
assistants in the Special Education Extended School  
Year (ESY) Program: Yohana Casasola, Catherine  
Plante, Sharon Schubert, Henriette Rainville, Suzanne  
Paul, Donna Martini-Proulx.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROVIDE ADVICE  
AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF  
THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AS  
TEACHER ASSISTANTS IN THE SPECIAL  
EDUCATION EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR  
(ESY) PROGRAM: YOHANA CASASOLA,  
CATHERINE PLANTE, SHARON SCHUBERT,  
HENRIETTE RAINVILLE, SUZANNE PAUL,  
DONNA MARTINI-PROULX. The following  
members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Luis  
Colon, Christopher Messier, Patricia Keenan, and  
Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.**

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### **d) Proficiency-Based Summer School Clerk (FUNDING SOURCE: LOCAL)**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee provide advice and consent to the appointment of Robin Langlais to the position of Proficiency-Based Summer School Clerk.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROVIDE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBIN LANGLAIS TO THE POSITION OF PROFICIENCY-BASED SUMMER SCHOOL CLERK.** The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Patricia Keenan, Christopher Messier, Luis Colon, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously passed.

### **e) Advisors (Three-Year Appointments) (FUNDING SOURCE LOCAL)**

- 1) Drama Producer – West Warwick High School**
- 2) Tri-M Music Honor Society Advisor – WWHS**
- 3) Two (2) Yearbook Advisors – West Warwick High School**
- 4) Yearbook Advisor – Deering Middle School**
- 5) Band Director – Deering Middle School**
- 6) Choral Co-Director – Deering Middle School**
- 7) Two (2) Drama Directors – Deering Middle School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee provide advice and consent to the appointments of the following individuals to the positions listed below:

- 1) Drama Producer – West Warwick High School: Rikki Bicknell**

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- 2) Tri-M Music Honor Society Advisor – West Warwick High School: Matthew Livesy
- 3) Two (2) Yearbooks Advisors – West Warwick High School: Richard Grenier & Eric White
- 4) Yearbook Advisor – Deering Middle School: Pamela Kershaw
- 5) Band Director – Deering Middle School: Bridget Beliveau
- 6) Choral Co-Director – Deering Middle School: Fiona McIntosh & Kerry O’Neil
- 7) Two (2) Drama Directors – Deering Middle School: Giuseppe Lancellotta & Fiona McIntosh

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROVIDE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE POSITIONS LISTED BELOW:**

- 1) **DRAMA PRODUCER – WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL: RIKKI BICKNELL**
- 2) **TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY ADVISOR – WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL: MATTHEW LIVESY**
- 3) **TWO (2) YEARBOOKS ADVISORS – WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL: RICHARD GRENIER & ERIC WHITE**
- 4) **YEARBOOK ADVISOR – DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL: PAMELA KERSHAW**
- 5) **BAND DIRECTOR – DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL: BRIDGET BELIVEAU**
- 6) **CHORAL CO-DIRECTOR – DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL: FIONA MCINTOSH & KERRY O’NEIL**
- 7) **TWO (2) DRAMA DIRECTORS – DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL: GIUSEPPE LANCELOTTA & FIONA MCINTOSH**

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The following members voted in the affirmative:  
Christopher Messier, Rene Coutu, Patricia Keenan,  
Luis Colon, and Stephen Lawton. Motion  
unanimously passed.

**f) Department Chairs – West Warwick High  
School (3-year appointments) (FUNDING  
SOURCE: LOCAL)**

- 1) Business (9-12)**
- 2) English (9-12)**
- 3) Mathematics (9-12)**
- 4) Science (9-12)**
- 5) Social Studies (9-12)**
- 6) Special Education (9-12)**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School  
Committee provide advice and consent to the  
appointments of the following individuals to the  
positions of Department Chairs at West Warwick High  
School:

- 1) Business (9-12): Donna Clemence
- 2) English (9-12): Jennifer Coletta Mansour
- 3) Mathematics (9-12): Joseph Biscelli
- 4) Science (9-12): Christine Kirch
- 5) Social Studies (9-12): Marc LeBlanc
- 6) Special Education (9-12): Jessica Hassell

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROVIDE ADVICE  
AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF  
THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE  
POSITIONS OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRS AT  
WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL:**

- 1) BUSINESS (9-12): DONNA CLEMENCE**
- 2) ENGLISH (9-12): JENNIFER COLETTA  
MANSOUR**
- 3) MATHEMATICS (9-12): JOSEPH  
BISCELLI**
- 4) SCIENCE (9-12): CHRISTINE KIRCH**

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- 5) SOCIAL STUDIES (9-12): MARC LEBLANC**
- 6) SPECIAL EDUCATION (9-12): JESSICA HASSELL**

The following members voted in the affirmative:  
Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Luis Colon, Christopher  
Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion unanimously  
passed.

**23. Audience of Citizens**

**Audience of Citizens**

None.

**24. Adjournment**

**Adjournment**

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THAT THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE  
MEETING.** The following members voted in the  
affirmative: Luis Colon, Patricia Keenan, Rene  
Coutu, Christopher Messier, and Stephen H. Lawton.  
Motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rene Coutu, Clerk